

Remarks

Claims 13-15 have been amended to conform the application to U.S. practice. In addition, claim 13 has been amended to correct a translation error. The proper translation should read “low affinity” as opposed to “affinity.” Support for the amendment to “low affinity” can be found at least on pages 2, 12, and 14 of the specification. Support for the amendments to claim 14 can be found at least in the original claims and on page 11 of the specification. Claims 16-18 have been amended to depend from claims 14 and 15. Support for the amendments to claims 16-18 can be found at least in the original claims and on pages 1, 4, and 7-10 of the specification. No new matter has been added. Claims 1-12 have been cancelled without prejudice. With entry of this Amendment, claims 13-18 will be pending.

The Examiner restricted the claims into four groups:

Group I – claims 1-9, drawn to a process for preparing a cosmetic composition;

Group II – claims 10-12, drawn to a kit for preparing a cosmetic composition;

Group III – claims 13-15, drawn to a cosmetic composition;

Group IV – claims 16-18, drawn to the use of specific gelling agents in a composition.

Claims 16-18 have been amended to depend from claim 15. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 16-18 belong in Group III. With the amendment to these claims, Applicant hereby provisionally elects to prosecute Group III (claims 13-18) without traverse. Accordingly, claims 1-12 have been cancelled without prejudice. Applicant reserves the right to prosecute the non-elected claims in one or more divisional applications.

Examination on the merits is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone at the Examiner's convenience should any issues remain.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Hartwig', with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

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